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The Great Migration Begins

Davy Johnson appears on some lists of passengers on the *Mary & John*. This is possible, since he first appears in New England in 1630, and his first residence is Dorchester. But we do not know whether he derived from the West Country, so he must remain as a possible passenger on that ship.

EDWARD JOHNSON**ORIGIN:** Unknown**MIGRATION:** 1622**FIRST RESIDENCE:** Wessagusset**REMOVES:** York by 1634**OCCUPATION:** Agent [MPCR 4:27].**FREEMAN:** Requested 19 October 1630 (as "Mr. Ed. Johnson") and admitted 18 May 1631 (as "Mr. Edw. Johnson") [MBCR 1:79, 366]. Took the oath of allegiance at York on 22 March 1680 [MPCR 3:5].**EDUCATION:** He signed his deeds.**OFFICES:** Deputy (Agamenticus), 25 June 1640 [MPCR 1:55]. Associate (York), 9 July 1657 [MPCR 2:58]. Commissioner (York) 4 July 1659, 3 July 1660, 1 July 1661, 7 July 1663, 5 July 1664, 5 July 1670, 2 July 1672, 7 July 1674, 6 July 1675, 4 July 1676, 1 July 1679 [MPGR 2:75, 95, 108, 133, 156, 194, 238, 291, 310, 317, 352]. Justice of the Peace, 23 June 1665-18 December 1667 [MPCR 1:214, 306]. Mr. Edward Johnson was presented for marrying contrary to law at the York court 1 July 1673. He owned the presentment and promised amendment and the subject was dropped [MPCR 2:265].**ESTATE:** On 11 November 1660 Edward Johnson of York sold to John Pearse of the same place "a tract of upland which for several years myself have possessed, wherein my old field which I lived upon, & house, with that field Mathew Austine had of me, are both included" and "three acres of salt marsh lying on the northwest branch of the river of Yorke"; Benjamin Johnson was one of the witnesses to this deed, signing by mark [YLR 1:1:125].

On 24 August 1669 "Edw[ard] Johnson living & being in the town of Yorke, gentleman, with the full & free consent of my wife Praecilla Johnson, & of my son Benjmen Johnson," sold to John Carde of York, cooper, one acre of fresh meadow [YLR 2:88-89].

On 18 August 1680 "Edw[ard] Johnson of the town of Yorke, & Praecilla my wife," for "the natural affection which we have & do bear unto our beloved daughter Deborah, whom our loving son-in-law John Harmon hath married, & from that love & affection which for her sake & for other considerations of said John Harmon's manifestations of his

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unfeigned love towards us, by his great care & industry, in his frugal management of our estate to best advantage for our comfortable subsistence since he married our daughter," granted him ten acres purchased from Henry Symson Junior on 7 April 1680 "on which ten acres of land since my purchase thereof I have built a dwelling house wherein I do now live," also four or five acres of woodland at Bass Cove, and three acres of marsh and sixty acres of upland, for his development, in exchange for life support for both Edward and Priscilla. Lands of Mr. Edward Godfrey's in Edward Johnson's hands were to be used by Harmon until Mr. Godfrey or his heirs "legally take them out of his [Johnson's] hands" [YLR 3:83].

BIRTH: About 1593 (deposed 13 August 1675 "aged about eighty-two" [MPCR 4:27]; deposed 9 June 1682 "Mr. Edw: Johnson aged about eighty-nine years" [YLR 3:116]).

DEATH: After 9 January 1687[8] [MPCR 4:27].

MARRIAGE: By about 1646 Priscilla _____, born about 1618 (deposed aged sixty-five years on 29 June 1682 [YLR 3:116]; deposed aged eighty 12 August 1699 [YLR 8:262]). She died between 2 October 1706 (when the inventory of John Harmon of York, deceased, was taken and included land deeded for Edward and Priscilla's life maintenance [Maine PR 1:146]) and 4 July 1716 (when grandson Johnson Harmon received his share of John Harmon's estate, augmented "in consideration of his ... keeping & burying his grandmother Priscilla Johnson" [Maine PR 1:71-72]).

CHILDREN:

- i BENJAMIN, b. by 1646 (witnessed his fathers's deed on 11 November 1660 [YLR 1:1:125]); d. by 11 September 1677, when administration on his estate was granted [MPCR 2:334, 339, 515]; apparently unmarried.
- ii DEBORAH, b. say 1653; m. (1) by about 1673 John Foxwell (approximate birth of son Philip [GDMNH 243]), son of RICHARD FOXWELL [MPCR 3:55]; m. (2) by 21 June 1680 John Harmon (who on that date was with Mr. Francis Hooke granted administration on the estate of John Foxwell [YLR 5:1:2; Lydia Harmon Anc 9-12]).

COMMENTS: Edward Johnson arrived in New England in 1622 as part of the advance party sent out by THOMAS WESTON and immediately became involved in two important incidents at Wessagusset. He sat as judge on the Englishman who had stolen corn from an Indian [New English Canaan 250] and, at about the same time, he discovered a plot by the Indians against Plymouth and informed Plymouth authorities of the threat [NEHGR 7:209-10].

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